

REMARKS

By this amendment, applicants have canceled claims 17 and 18 without prejudice or disclaimer.

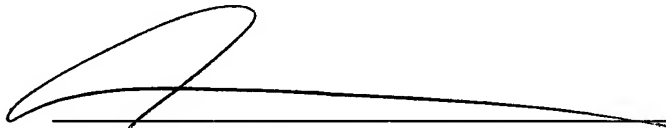
Since this amendment merely includes the cancellation of claims, the Examiner should approve the amendment as concerning merely formal matters, and such approval should not require submission to the Supervisory Patent Examiner prior to entry. Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) 714.16(d)II.

Entry of this amendment and cancellation of claims 17 and 18 are requested.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 501.36127CC3), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan E. Schiavelli', is written over a horizontal line.

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